



Accessibility Guide

Welcome to Yosemite! Yosemite was designated a national park to preserve its striking scenery, natural resources, and cultural history for public enjoyment. The park strives for full and equal participation of all visitors and continually upgrades facilities to make them more accessible.

This guide outlines park services, facilities, and activities. Within each area, it describes ways for people with sight, hearing, and mobility impairments to enjoy Yosemite. Symbols in the left margin mark specific accessibility features. (If you do not need this guide after your visit, please return it to any visitor center or entrance station.)

Guide information is current as of May 2006. For up-to-date information and more detailed descriptions of park services, see *Yosemite Today* (available at entrance stations, visitor centers, and other locations), or visit online at www.nps.gov/yose.

Questions or Suggestions?

To ask questions or make suggestions about accessibility in Yosemite, contact Larry Harris, accessibility coordinator, by phone at 209/379-1035, by e-mail at Larry_Harris@nps.gov, or by mail c/o the National Park Service, P.O. Box 700-W, El Portal, CA 95318.

For more information regarding accessibility and the National Park Service, check online at www.nps.gov/access/. For concerns or complaints regarding accessibility, write to: EEO Program Manager, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, org code 0008, Washington, DC 20240.

Discrimination on the basis of disability in federally conducted programs or activities of the Department of the Interior is prohibited.

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General Park Information

Yosemite National Park, set aside in 1890, embraces spectacular mountain and valley scenery in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Park highlights include Yosemite Valley's high cliffs and waterfalls; Wawona's history center and historic hotel; the Mariposa Grove of ancient giant sequoias; Glacier Point's spectacular view of Yosemite Valley and the high country (summer through fall); Tuolumne Meadows, a large subalpine meadow surrounded by high mountain peaks (summer through fall); and Hetch Hetchy, a secluded valley with a reservoir formed by a dam on the Tuolumne River.

Yosemite offers unparalleled natural views and soundscapes, and natural objects for tactile exploration. These opportunities are available in all areas of the park.

Entering the Park

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are blind or permanently disabled are eligible for the Golden Access Passport. This free, lifetime admission pass is valid at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Tennessee Valley Authority sites.

The Golden Access Passport must be obtained in person and with proof of eligibility. The pass is nontransferable and does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessioners. In Yosemite, the pass is available at park entrance stations, information stations, and visitor centers; it admits the pass owner and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. (At parks that charge individual fees, the pass admits the pass owner, spouse, parents, children, and other persons accompanying the owner, such as care assistants.)

The Golden Access Passport also provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services.

Visitors must supply the pass number when making a camping reservation. In some cases where use fees are charged, only the pass owner receives the 50% price reduction. For more information about fees in national parks, see www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm.

Temporary Accessibility Placard



For visitors who are temporarily disabled or who do not have their permanent accessibility placard with them, temporary placards are available at park entrance stations, campgrounds, and visitor centers. When displayed on a vehicle dashboard, the placards allow parking in designated accessible spaces and driving on some paved roads closed to other private-vehicle traffic, such as

the Happy Isles Loop Road and Mirror Lake Road. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and shuttle buses share these roads, so emergency flashers must be used, and the speed limit is 15 mph.

Parking



Designated accessible spaces are marked with the international access symbol and are reserved for vehicles displaying an accessibility placard or license plate.

Service Animals

In Yosemite, service animals are allowed in all facilities and on all trails, with the exceptions of stock trails and areas closed by the superintendent to protect park resources. Service animals must always be leashed. Service animals in training and pets are subject to other park regulations (see www.nps.gov/yose/trip/pets.htm).

Traveling times in the park may be longer than anticipated. When traveling with an animal, carry water, and allow for stops. Dispose of pet feces in a trash bin.

Services

Food



Food-service facilities in Yosemite are wheelchair-accessible with a few exceptions:

- The Loft, on the second floor of the Degnan's Complex in Yosemite Village (The Loft is scheduled to have an elevator by 2007.)
- Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, which has two steps and no accessible restroom
- The Wawona Hotel dining room, which has a steep ramp, a 2-inch threshold, and narrow doors at the back entrance; however, some visitors in wheelchairs can enter with assistance. No accessible restrooms are available.

Gas

Gas stations are located in El Portal, Wawona, Crane Flat, and (in summer) Tuolumne Meadows. Pay-at-the-pump service is available with a debit or credit card 24 hours a day. Check *Yosemite Today* for more details. Attendants can assist with fuel service during business hours.

ATMs



See *Yosemite Today* for locations. The Bank of America Versateller (at the Yosemite Art Center in Yosemite Village) has Braille functions and a plug for a headset.

Wheelchair Rental



Manual wheelchairs and electric scooters can be rented seasonally at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls and Curry Village bicycle-rental stands; to reserve, call 209/372-8319 or 209/372-1208. Check *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

Bicycle Rental

Bicycles can be rented seasonally at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls and Curry Village rental stands. Check *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.



A tandem bicycle (only for visitors with sight impairments) and a hand-cranked bicycle are available. Reservations are strongly recommended; call 209/372-8319 or 209/372-1208.

Telephone Services

Cell-phone signal strength is marginal in most of Yosemite.



There are pay phones throughout the park; most have volume control.



TTY pay phones are available in several locations: at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near the Curry Village front desk, in the lobby of Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, and in the mezzanine of The Ahwahnee. TTY phones are also available for guests at Curry Village, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee.

- TTY general park information
 - 209/372-4726
- TTY Yosemite lodging reservations
 - 559/252-2846
- TTY Yosemite campground reservations
 - 888/530-9796

Callers also can dial 711 for the California Relay Service, which provides an operator to help people with hearing impairments place and receive calls.

Post Offices

See *Yosemite Today* for post office locations in the park.



The main post office (located in Yosemite Village) has accessible parking and a letter-drop box behind the building. Enter from the service road just north of the Degnan's complex off Village Drive.

Health Concerns

Weather

Temperatures in Yosemite vary widely depending on season, elevation, and time of day; they can change rapidly and unexpectedly. Summer daytime temperatures usually range from the low 90s in Yosemite Valley and Wawona to the 70s in Tuolumne Meadows; nighttime lows usually range from the 50s in Yosemite Valley and Wawona to the 30s in Tuolumne Meadows. Snowy, rainy, or even sunny days are possible in winter, with daytime highs in Wawona and the Valley ranging from the 30s to 50s and lows, in the upper 20s.

Pay attention to the weather, and be aware of extreme temperatures. Dress appropriately for the season (in layers, if possible); bring rain gear. Carry and drink plenty of water, and take rest breaks during physical activity.

Elevation

Yosemite Valley is 4,000 feet above sea level. Outside the Valley, roads range from 2,000 feet to nearly 10,000 feet above sea level. In southern Yosemite, Glacier Point is at 7,214 feet; Wawona is at 4,000 feet; and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias ranges from 5,600 feet in the Lower Grove to 6,600 feet in the Upper Grove.

Maximum elevation on roads entering Yosemite Valley:

Approach	Road	Highest Road Elevation
From South	Wawona Road via Hwy 41 N	6,039 ft at Chinquapin
From West	Big Oak Flat Road via Hwy 120 E	6,192 ft at Crane Flat
From West	El Portal Road via Hwy 140 E	4,000 ft at Yosemite Valley
From East (June to Nov)	Tioga Road via Hwy 120 W	9,945 ft at Tioga Pass

Smoke and Fire

In Yosemite, fire is natural and important for maintaining healthy forests, and smoky skies are possible in spring, summer, and fall. Wildland fires — often ignited by lightning — generally are allowed to burn. Trained fire crews use prescribed burns to clear unnatural build-up of plant material in developed areas. Expert fire-management crews monitor all fires carefully.

Campgrounds also can be very smoky. To improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during the most crowded months, campfires are limited to the hours between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., May 1 through October 15. There are no time restrictions during the rest of the year.

Visitors with respiratory conditions should call 209/372-0200 (press 3, then 5 to speak with a ranger during business hours on weekdays), or visit the park's web site (www.nps.gov/yose/fire/) for a fire update.

Medical Facilities

In Yosemite

The Yosemite Medical Clinic is in Yosemite Village. Emergency and paramedic/ambulance services are available 24 hours a day. Other hours of operation vary seasonally; see *Yosemite Today* or call 209/372-4637. Services include a limited pharmacy, a laboratory, x-ray services, and physical therapy.



The rear emergency entrance is accessible to wheelchairs.

Outside Yosemite

The hospitals nearest to Yosemite are located in:

- Mariposa (west of the park, off Highway 140)
- Oakhurst (south of the park, off Highway 41) Urgent Care facility ONLY.
- Mammoth Lakes (southeast of the park off Highway 395; not accessible from Yosemite in winter)

Hospitals outside Yosemite with a range of services include:

Northern Inyo Hospital 150 Pioneer Lane Bishop, CA 93514 760/873-5811	Oakhurst Community Medical Center (Urgent Care only) 48677 Victoria Lane Oakhurst, CA 93644 559/683-2992
Mammoth Hospital 185 Sierra Park Road Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 760/934-3311	John C. Fremont Hospital 5189 Hospital Road Mariposa, CA 95338 209/966-3631
Mercy Medical Merced Community Campus 301 East 13 th Street Merced, CA 95340 209/385-7000	Tuolumne General Hospital 101 Hospital Road Sonora, CA 95370 209/533-7100
Valley Children's Hospital 9300 Valley Children's Place Madera, CA 93638 559/353-5150	Sonora Regional Medical Center 1000 Greenley Rd. Sonora, CA 95370 209/536-5000
Madera Community Hospital 1250 Almond Avenue Madera, CA 93637 559/673-5101	Doctors Medical Center 1441 Florida Avenue Modesto, CA 95352 209/578-1211

Staying in and near Yosemite

When reserving campsites or lodging, describe specific needs and ask for full descriptions of facilities and services. (Accessibility may vary depending on the season.)

Camping **Reservations**

Campsites may be reserved through the National Park Reservation System (NPRS) by writing to NPRS, P.O. Box 1600, Cumberland, MD 21502; or by phoning 800/436-7275 (in the United States and Canada) or 301/722-1257 (internationally) between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Pacific time. TTY users may dial 888/530-9796. To reserve a campsite online, visit <http://reservations.nps.gov>. Phone and online reservations may be made using Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover cards. For more information on camping, see

www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm. The Valley Campground Reservation Office is in the Curry Village parking area and is wheelchair-accessible.

Visitors with Golden Access Passports receive a 50% discount on camping in Yosemite. (Passport holders must give their number when making a reservation.)

Camping in Yosemite Valley



Campsites suitable for wheelchairs are available at Lower Pines Campground (which is closed in winter). Three sites—#3, #5, and #14—have power outlets for charging electric wheelchairs; however, this supply is not adequate for life-support systems, such as oxygen machines. Picnic tables at these sites have extended tops. The main road serves as the access route to the restrooms. Accessible sites are also planned for Upper Pines Campground.

Camp 4 walk-in campground (first-come, first-served) has a dirt access route leading to many level sites; however, none are designated accessible and there are no designated parking spaces. The restroom is accessible.

Camping Elsewhere in Yosemite



Two sites in the Wawona Campground are reserved for visitors with mobility impairments; an accessible restroom is nearby.

Camping Outside Yosemite



Accessible campgrounds are available in areas outside Yosemite; see www.nps.gov/yose/trip/campout.htm. For more information, call the National Recreation Reservation Service (877/444-6777); or visit online at www.reserveUSA.com.

Lodging

Guest lodging in Yosemite is provided by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc. Reservations are recommended (call 559/252-4848; TTY 559/252-2846; or visit online at www.YosemitePark.com). See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation. Describe specific accessibility needs, so that an appropriate room may be offered.

In Yosemite Valley



The Ahwahnee has two accessible cottages. Several hotel rooms have some accessible features, but are not designated accessible; remodeling is in the planning stages. The ground floor of the hotel has an accessible passenger-loading zone, dining room, bar, gift shop, patio, telephone, and drinking fountain.

An accessible unisex restroom on the mezzanine is identified by a sign and can be reached by an elevator. Walkway surfaces are paved; the covered approach to the front door is wood planking. Valet parking and designated parking spaces are available.



Yosemite Lodge at the Falls has five accessible hotel rooms with accessible bathrooms and showers. The front lobby and tour desk are accessible by ramp (at the west end of the front complex) leading to the covered walkway into the lobby, and from a ramp at the east end of the registration building. Accessible restrooms, restaurants, and gift shops are available. An outdoor amphitheater offers evening programs spring through fall. Most walkways are paved. Designated parking spaces are available near the registration building.



Curry Village has two accessible cabins with bathrooms, one accessible hotel-standard room, and six accessible cabins without bathrooms. (An accessible showerhouse is nearby.) Eleven accessible tent cabins (four with heat) should be available by spring of 2006. Walkway surfaces are asphalt and connect to all major services. The dining pavilion, grocery/gift shop, pizza patio and bar, and mountaineering shop are accessible. An accessible outdoor amphitheater offers evening programs spring through fall. Designated parking spaces are available.

Housekeeping Camp offers 3-sided canvas structures with beds, a place to prepare meals, and a concrete patio with a picnic table; linens are not provided but can be rented, and laundry facilities are available. Walkway surfaces include asphalt and sand. An accessible restroom and shower are located in Section H.

Elsewhere in Yosemite

Currently, no accessible lodgings are available at Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, or Wawona. For updates, call DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite at 559/252-4848, or visit online at www.YosemitePark.com.

Getting Around Yosemite

Shuttle Buses

Bus drivers can help passengers on and off buses or notify them of their stops. Ask for assistance.

Free shuttle buses operate in several areas of the park (for more information, see *Yosemite Today*, or call 209/372-8441):

- Yosemite Valley (year-round) – throughout the east end
- Wawona (seasonal) – from the Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias
- Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) – from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass

A fee-based tour bus makes one trip per day between Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. Contact the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls tour desk at 209/372-1240 for schedule and fare information.



The free shuttles and the Tuolumne Meadows tour bus have wheelchair lifts and tie-downs.

Shuttle service is not available between the Valley and southern Yosemite, including Wawona.

Sightseeing by Car

Many of Yosemite's fine views and points of interest can be seen from park roads. Sightseeing guidebooks and other information are available at park visitor centers and retail outlets and can be purchased online from the nonprofit Yosemite Association at www.yosemite.org.

Tours

Several tours are offered (for a fee) on motor coaches and open-air trams. For tickets and information, contact DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite tour desks at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (year-round, 209/372-1240) and at Curry Village and Yosemite Village (seasonal). Tours depart from Yosemite Lodge.



Some tour vehicles are wheelchair-accessible. Call 24 hours in advance to reserve a space.

Trail Rides (seasonal)

Stables in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows offer trail rides. They can tailor rides to specific needs; call at least 24 hours in advance: Yosemite Valley, 209/372-8348; Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) 209/372-8427; or Wawona (summer only) 209/375-6502.

The Wawona Stable has an accessible portable toilet, but restrooms at the Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Stables are not accessible.

Learning About Yosemite Visitor Centers and Museums

Rangers in the park's visitor centers, wilderness centers, and museums are knowledgeable about Yosemite and are there to assist visitors. They can provide personalized services, information, and interpretation about the park.

Ranger-Led Activities

See *Yosemite Today* for a complete list of ranger activities, which range from campfire programs and all-day hikes to talks about Yosemite topics. Ask at any visitor center for details, or visit online at www.nps.gov/yose.

Sign Language Interpretation



In summer and during limited off-season hours, a National Park Service ranger may be available to provide American Sign Language interpretation for ranger programs. Please make individual or group reservations at least two weeks in advance. All requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Inquire at visitor centers, or phone 209/372-4726 (TTY).

For ASL interpretation on paid tours, call the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls tour desk at 209/372-1240.

Assisted-Listening Devices



Ask at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center about assisted-listening devices for ranger-led programs in Yosemite Valley.

Park Publications

Many park publications – including books, maps, and other media – are available at visitor centers and retail outlets throughout the park, or online at www.yosemite.org.

Park publications in Braille are being produced. Park information can be downloaded from Yosemite's web site (www.nps.gov/yose) and the font size increased to improve readability for those needing large-print materials.

Environmental Education

The National Park Service and two nonprofit park partners offer a variety of environmental education programs for children and adults.

National Park Service: Most educational programs in Yosemite are accessible to students with disabilities. Yosemite staff members work with teachers and school districts to ensure that every student can be included in field trips, camping trips, and other educational park activities.

The Environmental Living Program at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (in Wawona) and the Parks As Classrooms programs serve students with a wide range of specific needs. For further information, contact the park's Education Branch at 209/375-9505.

Yosemite Institute: Residential field-science programs for groups of children and adults through the Yosemite Institute can be tailored to accommodate specific needs. For more information, contact Yosemite Institute at 209/379-9511, or visit online at www.yni.org/yi.

Yosemite Association: With advance notice, the Yosemite Association (209/379-2646) will work to develop custom Outdoor Adventures for visitors with disabilities.

Yosemite by Region

Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000 feet

Known as the “Incomparable Valley,” Yosemite Valley is seven miles long and one mile across at its widest point. Formed by glacial erosion over millions of years, Yosemite Valley is famous for its waterfalls and rock formations (including Half Dome and El Capitan). The Valley is the most-visited place in Yosemite, and it offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities. A tour of the Yosemite Village area, downloadable to handheld devices, is currently being produced.

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

(Shuttle Stops #5 and #9)

The Valley Visitor Center has an information desk, exhibits about the park, and a bookstore. An auditorium and a theater behind the visitor center offer presentations, including an award-winning orientation film, *Spirit of Yosemite*. This 23-minute film is shown free throughout the day in the theater.



Spirit of Yosemite is closed-captioned, as are video displays in the visitor center.



Spirit of Yosemite has audio description and foreign-language translation. Ask at the information desk for listening devices.



The main exhibit hall has several tactile exhibits on the geologic story of Yosemite Valley. A tactile contour map is also available. Please ask for assistance.



The visitor center has accessible power-assisted doors at front and rear entrances. Access to the theater and auditorium is through the front doors: Proceed through the exhibit area and out the rear doors to the ramp (on the left). Accessible restrooms are located behind the visitor center.

To reach the theater when the visitor center is closed, use the sidewalk to the left of the visitor center's front entrance, pass the restrooms, and go up the concrete path past the visitor center's rear doors. This path has slopes ranging up to 16%.

A few accessible parking spaces are available just west of the visitor center. To reach these parking spaces, enter the Valley on Southside Drive, and go west (left) on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white accessibility signs. Turn right on Village Drive. Stay on Village Drive until reaching the "Do Not Enter" sign marking the shuttle-bus route, and then turn left. Accessible parking spaces are on the right side of the road.

Visitors can also park at the day-visitor parking area and take the shuttle bus, which has wheelchair lifts and tie-downs, to the visitor center.

Yosemite Museum

(Shuttle stops #5 and #9, just west of Valley Visitor Center)

The Yosemite Museum has an art gallery and the Indian Cultural Exhibit. The exhibit offers displays and demonstrations relating to the culture and lives of the Ahwahneechee people who inhabited Yosemite Valley.



In front of the Museum is a cross-section of a giant sequoia tree that visitors can touch. Inside the museum, the Indian Cultural Exhibit also has tactile displays. An interpretive ranger is available to give personal assistance, for which reservations are recommended.

Indian Village of Ahwahnee

(Shuttle stops #5 and #9, behind Valley Visitor Center)

Behind the museum and the visitor center is the reconstructed Indian Village of Ahwahnee, which offers outdoor displays about the culture and lives of the Ahwahneechee inhabitants of Yosemite Valley.



A short, partially paved loop trail winding through the village has exhibits with audio commentary. The village's central area is level but unpaved. In summer, an interpretive ranger can give personal assistance; reservations are recommended.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

(Shuttle stops #5 and #9, just west of Valley Visitor Center)

Showcasing the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists, the gallery is open daily. For more information, contact the gallery at 209/372-4413, or visit online at www.anseladams.com.



The gallery's main floor is accessible by ramp at the front. Its upper level is accessible by an outside path (with a short slope of 8%) or by 3 steps inside.

Yosemite Art Center

(Shuttle stop #2)

Located near the Yosemite Village Store, the Yosemite Art Center offers art classes during the summer and fall. For information and a schedule of classes, call 209/372-1442 or 209/379-2646, or see Yosemite Today. Many art classes are offered in accessible areas.

Lower Yosemite Fall

(Shuttle stop #6)

Parking is no longer available at Lower Yosemite Fall; ride the free, lift-equipped shuttle buses to the Lower Fall area (stop #6).

From the shuttle stop, visitors can see the world's fifth tallest waterfall (the tallest in North America), one of the most sought-after views in the park. Yosemite Falls, 2,425 feet high, consists of three segments: Upper Yosemite Fall, the Middle Cascade, and Lower Yosemite Fall. A tour of the Lower Fall area, downloadable to handheld devices, is currently being produced.

A paved loop trail, just over a mile in length, extends east and west from shuttle stop #6 to the Lower Fall, which plummets 320 feet to the rocks below. In spring, spray reaches out to the viewing area and beyond. Watch your step: the walkway and bridge may be wet.



Along the loop trail are seating areas, orientation maps, and educational exhibits. The exhibits have tactile features. A bronze relief map near the base of the western trail depicts the watershed that drains into Yosemite Falls. Huge granite boulders—some as big as a house—can be seen and touched just steps away from the paved trail leading to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall.



The eastern part of the loop (0.6 mile) is accessible to wheelchairs and crosses several braided streams before reaching the Lower Fall viewing area, which has transferable seating to granite boulders at wheelchair height. An accessible restroom is located at the trailhead near the shuttle stop.

The western trail (0.5 mile) is wide enough for several people and is mostly accessible; however, a short, steep grade near the viewing area (the last 180 feet include a slope of 13.8%) may make assistance necessary for some visitors.

Note: Road and lodge construction will continue for several years in this area.

Multi-Use Paved Trails

More than 12 miles of paved, two-lane trails for bicyclists and pedestrians wind through forests and along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. Bicycle-rental

stands at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge at the Falls have bicycle trail maps; more extensive maps are available at the Valley Visitor Center.



Most of these trails are accessible; however, the Superintendent's Bridge (opposite the historic Yosemite Chapel) has steps, and a section near Housekeeping Camp is steep.

Happy Isles

(Shuttle stop #16)

Happy Isles offers a nature center and a nature trail, access to the Merced River, a snack stand, and the trailhead for the Vernal and Nevada Falls, Half Dome, and John Muir trails.



By private vehicle: Happy Isles Loop Road, at the east end of Yosemite Valley, is closed to private-vehicle traffic, but vehicles with accessibility placards may enter. (If eligible, obtain a temporary placard at any visitor center or entrance station, and display it on the vehicle dashboard.) To enter the loop, follow signs to the campgrounds and drive east beyond the "Authorized Vehicles Only" sign.

At shuttle stop #16, turn right on the paved road. Two designated parking spaces are located behind the restroom, and two more are at the Nature Center at Happy Isles. An accessible restroom is available next to the shuttle stop.

On Happy Isles Road, display access placard, and drive with emergency flashers on. Speed limit is 15 mph.

The Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer only)

(Shuttle stop #16)

The Nature Center at Happy Isles, about 100 yards from the shuttle stop, is geared to children and their families and is open daily in summer. The center offers nature exhibits and interactive, tactile displays on Yosemite's natural history.



Visitors can take a short walk out to the Happy Isles in the Merced River, listening for the roar of the river over huge boulders.



Nearby is an accessible nature trail, with outdoor panels detailing Happy Isles' distinct environments: forest, river, and fen. Outdoor exhibits also tell the geologic story of rockfall in Yosemite.



During the summer, a volunteer at the nature center is available to assist with narrating the outdoor exhibits. Benches are available along the trail.

Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)

(Shuttle stop # 17)

Mirror Lake is a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek, in the shadow of Half Dome. A trail begins at the end of the paved road leading from shuttle stop #17. Wayside exhibits explain the natural and cultural features of the area. The trail surface is compacted gravel and may be slippery.

By shuttle bus: From the shuttle stop, follow the signs 1 mile to the end of the paved road. The last 1,000 feet up to the lake are on a slope of from 6.6% to 10.6%.



By vehicle: The road to Mirror Lake, at the east end of Yosemite Valley, is closed to private-vehicle traffic, but vehicles with accessibility placards may enter. (If eligible, obtain a temporary placard at any entrance station or visitor center, and display it on the vehicle dashboard.) Follow the signs to the campgrounds. At North Pines Campground, proceed past the “No Entry” sign, and follow the signs to Mirror Lake.

From Happy Isles, turn right onto the Happy Isles Loop Road and drive 1 mile. Turn right at the Mirror Lake shuttle stop (#17).

On Mirror Lake Road, display access placard, and drive with emergency flashers on. Speed limit is 15 mph.

Bridalveil Fall

(No shuttle service)

This spectacular, year-round waterfall (albeit a trickle in autumn) can be seen from a parking lot located where Wawona Road enters Yosemite Valley. Rainbows are common, as is the wind that causes the fall to spray up. Many visitors stop here on their way into Yosemite Valley.

The parking lot has designated parking spaces and accessible vault toilets. A short paved trail leads to the base of the fall, but it is steep in places (14% to 24% slope) and not advisable for people using wheelchairs or walking aids.

Another viewing area is located on Southside Drive, in a sizable turnout just east of where Wawona Road merges with Southside Drive.

Picnic Areas

Yosemite Valley has several picnic areas. See *Yosemite Today* for locations.



The El Capitan Picnic Area has a designated parking space with immediate paved access to a level, paved site. This site has a picnic table with an extended tabletop. The vault toilet is wheelchair accessible.

Northern Yosemite

Big Oak Flat

Elevation: 4,872 feet

The Big Oak Flat Information Station is open in summer. Check *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.



The station has an accessible information desk, campground reservation desk, wilderness center, and restrooms.

Hetch Hetchy

Elevation: 3,813 feet

O'Shaughnessy Dam, built between 1919 and 1923, impounds the Tuolumne River, forming Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. In summer, the area can be extremely hot, and it lacks shade. The road to Hetch Hetchy has a 25-foot restriction on vehicle length and is closed at night to all vehicles.

Because of the excessive cross-slope of the parking area, no designated-accessible parking spaces are available.

Tioga Road (closed to vehicles in winter)

Elevation range: 6,192 - 9,945 feet

This spectacular National Scenic Byway crosses Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, offering several roadside exhibits at vista points. Tioga Road is closed between Crane Flat and Highway 395 near Lee Vining, typically from November through May or June.

Accessible vault toilets are located (from west to east) at the Tuolumne Grove parking lot, Sunrise Trailhead, Murphy Creek Picnic Area at Tenaya Lake, Tenaya Lake (east end), and Lembert Dome Picnic Area. Accessible restroom facilities are available at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

Tuolumne Grove

Elevation: 5,727 feet

The Tuolumne Grove is a cluster of about 25 giant sequoias that can be reached from a parking area at Crane Flat, between the gas station and the Yosemite Institute campus. The paved path into the grove is open year-round but not plowed in winter. This path is the former route of the Big Oak Flat Road, now closed to vehicles; it has a 7.5% grade for about a mile, where the first sequoias are visible.

The uphill return from Tuolumne Grove is steep and at moderately high elevation, so it is strenuous for some visitors.



A short distance from the parking lot is an accessible restroom. Just beyond it is a cross-section of a giant sequoia tree, which has transferable seating at wheelchair height and tactile features.

White Wolf (summer only)

Elevation: 7,758 feet

This area has lush meadows dotted with wildflowers in summer. No wheelchair-accessible facilities are available.

Olmsted Point (summer through fall)

Elevation: 8,400 feet

This stunning spot overlooks Half Dome, Clouds Rest, Tenaya Lake, and the Sierra Crest. Accessible exhibits are under construction and should be available in 2007.

Tenaya Lake (summer through fall)

Elevation: 8,150 feet

This large, glacier-carved lake along Tioga Road nestles among granite domes and peaks, just west of Tuolumne Meadows.

Some portions of the viewing area along the northern side of Tenaya Lake have a paved sidewalk. The access route to the Tenaya Lake Picnic Area and beach is not accessible to wheelchairs because it is along a soil trail.

Tuolumne Meadows (summer through fall)

Elevation: 8,600 feet

Subalpine meadows, the Tuolumne River, and spectacular domes and peaks dominate the landscape in this gateway to the Sierra high country. See *Yosemite Today* for facilities and interpretive programs.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center (summer through early fall)

The visitor center has an information desk, a bookstore, and exhibits about the Tuolumne Meadows area.



A designated parking space and entrance are available. From the main parking lot, drive up the service road to the right of the visitor center. Park in the designated space, and follow the paved path in front of the visitor center to the rear entrance. Accessible restrooms are adjacent to the main parking lot.

Southern Yosemite – Glacier Point Area

Glacier Point Road (closed to vehicles in winter)

Elevation range: 6,040 feet to 7,888 feet

Glacier Point Road offers easy access to some of the Sierra Nevada's most striking high-country views. Wildflowers abound in July. The road crosses Bridalveil Creek, the origin of Yosemite's Valley's Bridalveil Fall.

Badger Pass Ski Area (winter only)

Elevation: 7,245 feet

California's oldest operating ski area, Badger Pass offers downhill and cross-country skiing, snow tubing, and snowshoeing. The ski area is approximately 45 minutes from Yosemite Valley.



Sit-ski lessons are offered by advance reservation. Call 209/372-8430. On the first floor of the Badger Pass Lodge, the food-service area, deck, and restrooms are accessible. There are three designated parking spaces.

Washburn Point (summer through fall)

Elevation: 7,591 feet

This overlook, just west of Glacier Point, provides beautiful views of Half Dome and the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada. From this vantage point, visitors can take in the "granite staircase" waterfalls—Nevada and Vernal – and also Illilouette Fall. The point is named for the Washburn brothers, who built the first road from Wawona to Yosemite Valley. Washburn Point lacks designated parking spaces and curb cuts for wheelchair access.

Glacier Point (summer through fall)

Elevation 7,214 feet

This world-renowned overlook gives visitors a grand view of Yosemite Valley from above and a captivating vista of the park's southeastern high peaks.



The overlook is accessible via a 300-yard paved, switchback trail from the main parking lot. Restrooms, snack bar, and a gift shop are accessible.



A bronze, three-dimensional model (on the terrace below the gift shop) identifies geologic features.

Southern Yosemite – Wawona Area

Wawona

Elevation: 4,012 feet

Facilities in Wawona include a year-round gas station (attendant available during business hours) and a grocery/gift shop. A golf course, golf shop, stage rides, and stable are available seasonally.

Wawona Hotel

This beautiful complex of buildings, with a backdrop of stately trees, dates back to 1879.

Designated parking spaces are located on the north side (rear) of Hill's Studio (pink structure). While the hotel dining room is accessible, the approach is not: the ramp is steep; there is a two-inch threshold at the lobby, and the doors are narrow. However, visitors in wheelchairs may be able to enter with assistance. Follow the signs to the ramp at the rear of the hotel. No accessible restrooms or lodging are available.

Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio

Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill's Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th century landscape painter Thomas Hill. Today it serves as an information station.



Two accessible parking spaces and a mechanical lift are available at the rear of the studio. Ask staff for help using the lift.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

The history center allows visitors to explore Yosemite's 19th-century past, offering glimpses into cabins and a stable, and a chance to cross a covered bridge. Written displays about the buildings are available year-round. In summer, costumed staff members interpret the area's history.

Paths within the complex have a dirt surface. An accessible restroom is located near the parking lot. There is no designated parking. Parking near the Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop provides the best access; the paved route includes a portion with 8.1% slope.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Elevation range: 5,606 – 6,461 feet

Yosemite's largest stand of giant sequoias, the Mariposa Grove also has the park's largest and most impressive individual trees. Some giant sequoias are visible in the grove parking lot.

An open-air tram tour of the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias, with pre-recorded narration, is available late spring through early fall for a fee. Purchase tickets at the tram-departure kiosk. For more information, call 209/375-1621 or 209/372-1240; or check online at www.YosemitePark.com.



An audio-described version of the tour is available, as are foreign-language translations.



Trams are not equipped with lifts, but visitors with mobility impairments may drive behind a tram and listen to the pre-recorded tour narration. There are two designated parking spaces in the parking lot near the restrooms, each with a slope and cross-slope of 5.4%. The parking-area restrooms on the north side of the building are accessible to wheelchairs.

Mariposa Grove Museum (closed in winter)

Elevation: 6,440 feet

Modeled after a cabin where Yosemite's first guardian—Galen Clark—lived, the museum has exhibits explaining the natural history of giant sequoias and the human history of the area.



Visitors with an accessibility placard may follow a tram to the museum, which has an access path; however, the path is steep in places. No accessible restrooms are available.